

Message Text

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AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, JO
SUBJECT: GUARDIAN ARTICLE ON HUSSEIN AND JORDANIAN
POSITION

GUARDIAN OF FEBRUARY 21 CONTAINS ARTICLE BY JOHN PALMER
IN AMMAN ON VIEWS OF THE JORDANIAN ESTABLISHMENT ON THE
CURRENT STATE OF THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. ARTICLE READS
IN PART, BEGIN QUOTE -- KING HUSSEIN AND THE JORDANIAN
GOVERNMENT NOW BELIEVE THAT PRESIDENT SADAT'S PEACE
INITIATIVE HAS FAILED AND THAT THERE IS NO PROSPECT OF
JORDAN JOINING THE TALKS BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL...
THE KING, AND THE HASHEMITE ESTABLISHMENT IN JORDAN ARE
DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED AT THE RELUCTANCE OF THE US TO PUT
EFFECTIVE PRESSURE ON ISRAEL TO MAKE A PEACE SETTLEMENT
POSSIBLE. ONLY A STRONG STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE US AND
THE OTHER NATO POWERS, AT LEAST IMPLICITLY CONDEMNING
ISRAEL'S STANCE, WOULD RESTORE JORDANIAN FAITH IN THE
WEST'S ROLE AS A PEACE ARBITRATOR.

THIS WAS MADE CLEAR BY THE JORDANIAN MINISTER OF
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INFORMATION, MR. ADNAN ABU OUDEH WHO TOLD ME THAT 'WHEN
SADAT WENT TO JERUSALEM WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT FOR THE
FIRST TIME THERE MIGHT BE A CHANCE OF PEACE, EVEN
THOUGH WE WERE CAUTIOUS BECAUSE WE UNDERSTOOD ZIONISM.
BUT THE ISRAELIS HAVE SHOWN THAT THEY ARE NOT INTERESTED
IN A SERIOUS NEGOTIATION. THE KING SAID THAT HE WOULD
ONLY JOIN THE TALKS IF THE CIRCUMSTANCES WERE RIGHT,

MEANING THAT THERE WAS EVIDENCE THAT THE ISRAELIS WERE ACTUALLY COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLES OF (SECURITY COUNCIL) ARTICLE 242. BUT THEY HAVE SHOWN THEY ARE NOT. EVEN SO, THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT IS STILL RELUCTANT TO ASSUME THAT THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, IN THIS CONTEXT, SHOULD AUTOMATICALLY BE REPRESENTED BY THE PLO.

MR. ABU OUDEH SAID THAT THE US AND WESTERN EUROPE HAD TO PUT SOME 'REAL MUSCLE AND SOME REAL PRESSURE' ON ISRAEL QUICKLY. 'YOU IN THE WEST SHOULD NOT TRY TO PLAY US IN AN EVASIVE WAY WITH YOUR STATEMENTS.' THE MINISTER ADDED THAT ANY NEW WESTERN DECLARATION ON THE MIDDLE EAST WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE AT LEAST SOME IMPLICIT WARNING TO ISRAEL OF THE DANGERS TO PEACE IN THE AREA BECAUSE OF THE PRESENT STAND -- END QUOTE

ARTICLE GOES ON TO REPORT NERVOUSNESS BY ARAB MODERATES AT PROSPECT ARAB RADICAL FORCES STAND TO GAIN, AND ADDS -- BEGIN QUOTE --A SIGNIFICANT SECTION OF THE JORDANIAN MIDDLE CLASS IS TIRED OF THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM AND WOULD BE HAPPY TO CUT THE LINKS BETWEEN THE EAST AND WEST BANKS...PROSPECT OF A POOR, RADICAL, ECONOMICALLY ROOTLESS WEST BANK STATE ON THEIR DOORSTEP GIVES SLEEPLESS NIGHTS TO THE GOVERNMENT AND ITS SUPPORTERS. -- END QUOTE.

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FULL TEXT POUCHED TO AMMAN AND NEA/ARN.
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